

HEALTH

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1941

Annual Report



OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

Urban Sanitary Authority

OF

EAST DEREHAM,
Norfolk.

EAST DEREHAM :

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1942

EAST DEREHAM URBAN DISTRICT

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for 1941

Sec. A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, (in acres)	...	...	...	5,313
Population, ((Census 1931)	...	...	...	5,643
Number of inhabited houses, (end 1941)	...	...	...	1,890
Rateable value	...	...	...	25,834
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£98/17/4

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

			Totals	M	F
Live Births	{ Legitimate	...	102	56	46
	{ Illegitimate	...	7	4	3

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated
resident population : 16·41

Still Births	{ Legitimate	...	—	—	—
	{ Illegitimate	...	1	1	—

Rate per 1,000, (live and still),
births: 9·0

Deaths	66	34	32
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Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated
resident population : 9·93

It is satisfactory to record that, for the second year in succession, there were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other puerperal causes.

Death rate of infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	24
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			25
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer, (all ages)	...	...	9
„ „ Measles, (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough, (all ages)		...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)		...	Nil

The Birth Rate, (16'41 per 1,000 pop.), is 3'16 higher than in 1940 and 2'2 above the National average, (14'2). This is the highest rate recorded since 1925. It is 20 years ago since the birth rate was over 20 per 1,000. The average birth rate during the last 10 years was 13'92 as compared with 21'6 over a similar period 30 years ago.

There were three deaths of infants under one year of age. the rate per 1,000 live births being 24 as compared with 35 last year. 30 years ago the infantile death rate was three times as great as in recent years, viz : 36 for the last decade as compared with 107 for a similar period 30 years ago.

The Death Rate, (9'93 per 1,000 pop.), is 4'76 lower than in 1940 and 3 per 1,000 less than the National average, (12'9). The average death rate for the last decade was 12'62 as compared with 14'11 for the decade ending 1911. This is the lowest death rate recorded for the District, the next lowest figure being 10'93 in 1934.

Thus there has been a record low death rate, a considerably higher birth rate and a notable reduction in the rate of infant mortality.

Sec. B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Staff of the District Council consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health and a Sanitary Inspector. The latter carries out the duties of Engineer, Surveyor and Markets' Inspector.

An emergency laboratory service has been available at Cambridge, but it has not been found necessary to make any calls upon this organisation.

The County Isolation Hospital at Dereham has accommodation for 96 beds. 9 cases from the Area were admitted during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The District has co-operated energetically in the National campaign to encourage the immunisation of children between the ages of 1 and 15 years. The figures of those immunised and estimated child population are as follows:

	Estimated child population		Immunised	
	Under 5	5—15	Under 5	5—15
	490	1010	118	814
Percentage immunised			24%	80%

Some 2% of the estimated number of children over 5 and 4% under 5 had one injection only. A number of those received the second dose later, but it was impossible to determine the exact number.

Of the 932 children immunised, 769 were injected at sessions held at the Schools.

The percentage of children over 5 years immunised is very satisfactory, but the figure for those between 1 and 5 years is much less so. It is in this latter age group that the disease

is most serious and susceptibility almost universal. In order to encourage the protection of children in this age group, parents are now circularised Quarterly when they have a child reaching one year of age reminding them that the child should be immunised as soon as possible.

Under the Council's scheme young children may be immunised at home when necessary.

Sec. C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) WATER.

The average daily consumption continues to rise. Twelve years ago it was 59,600 gallons, in 1939 it had risen to 94,488 gallons, in 1940 to 102,912 and the consumption this year was 117,147 gallons. The average daily pumping hours was 18'3 compared with 15'9 last year.

As noted in recent reports, the increasing demand for water causes anxiety concerning the present supply and storage accommodation.

In September a serious leak developed in No. 3 rising main of the deep well pump. Temporary repairs were rapidly effected pending the renewal of this and other rising mains also found to be defective.

During April, a Royle's chlorinating apparatus was installed at the Works, so that the Town supply is now chlorinated.

A Horrocks' water testing box has been acquired.

Results of chemical analysis of Town Water taken in September :

Colour	Nil
Odour	Faintly Fishy
Turbidity	Clear and bright
Hardness	14½ degrees

Chlorine	Just under 2 gr. per gallon
Nitrites	Very faint trace
Nitrates	Nil
Oxygen absorbed	Less than 0'05 parts per 100,000
Metals	Faint trace of iron
Ammonia	No evident trace

The residue left on evaporation has a faint cream colour and does not char on heating.

VARIATION IN HARDNESS AND CHLORINE CONTENT
DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

Date	Degrees of Hardness	Chlorine
9th	14	1 gr.
10th	16	1 gr.
14th	14	Less than 2 gr.
22nd	17½	1 gr.
24th	18	1 gr.
30th	16	1 gr.

From this table it will be seen that considerable variations in the degree of hardness takes place. This is inevitable under present conditions, as the precipitation tanks are dealing with approximately three times the amount of water for which they were designed.

Mr. F. H. Seabrooke, Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Health, has inspected the Works and investigated the whole position. As a result, the Council was informed that no expenditure on new plant could be allowed at the present time.

24 HOUR PUMPING TEST (November).

	BASED ON TANK MEASUREMENTS		BASED ON METER READINGS	
	Total yield Gals.	Average yield per hour Gals.	Total yield Gals.	Average yield per hour Gals.
Well pump and borehole pump working together after well pump had rested for 12 hours	166,835	6,951	161,489	6,729
Well pump and borehole pump working together obtaining only the yield from the well and the borehole	158,160	6,590	—	—
Well pump working alone obtaining only the yield from the well	81,901	3,412	83,929	3,497
Borehole pump working alone obtaining only the yield from the borehole	101,396	4,224	99,874	4,161

5 new water services have been installed during the year.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The inflow to the Sewage Works continues to increase in volume and strength and it has proved impossible to procure a satisfactory final effluent. Greatly increased quantities of sludge have also had to be dealt with. Severe frost in the Winter of 1939-40 caused further difficulties.

It is clear that the present Works have insufficient capacity to deal with the present inflow.

(3) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There still remain 293 pail closets in the central parts of the Town, 201 of this number being situated within 100 feet of the sewer mains.

(4) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

16 privy vaults have been cleaned out by the Council during the year.

The refuse dump is in very good order.

(5) SALVAGE.

During the year, the collection of salvage has proceeded well, in spite of the limited amount of labour available. During the latter part of the year a full-time Collector was appointed who has carried out his duties conscientiously.

The collection of waste material from business premises has caused difficulty at times but, with the help of the Council's lorry, this has been largely overcome.

Total Salvage collected during the year :

Waste paper and cardboard	89 tons
Rags	2 tons, 15 cwt.
Bones	1 ton, 18 cwt.

Several sacks of aluminium have also been collected.

These figures represent a considerable increase on those for 1940.

For this result, great credit is due to the energetic Organiser of the Salvage Committee and his fellow workers.

(6) SUMMARY OF DUTIES CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Houses and premises inspected	...	62
Nuisances abated	...	20
Houses disinfected	...	21

(7) SWIMMING BATH.

The Swimming Bath, which was taken over by the District Council in 1938, was open during the Summer months of the year, 280,150 gallons of water being supplied from the Waterworks during the Season.

Sec. D

HOUSING

Number of houses erected in the District during the Year :

(a) By the Local Authority	...	Nil
(b) By other bodies or persons	...	1

Summary of houses erected by the District Council up to the end of 1941 :

Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 and 1924	64
Housing Acts, 1930, 1936 and 1938	80
	<hr/> 144 <hr/>

8 of the houses built under the 1938 Act were for the relief of overcrowding.

See. E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply* :—

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :

(i) Number of registered purveyors of milk	18
(ii) Number of registered cow-keepers and wholesale purveyors of milk ...	21

Milk, (Special Designations), Orders, 1936 & 1938 :—

(i) Number of licensed producers of Accredited Milk	8
(ii) Number of licensed purveyors of Accredited Milk	5

Milk Samples :

18 samples of milk were taken and forwarded to the County Council's Laboratory at Norwich. 2 failed to pass the methylene blue test.

(b) *Meat and other Foods* :—

Slaughtering is now carried out at two central slaughter-houses under Government control.

Condemned as unfit for human consumption :

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & L	Pigs
<i>Tuberculosis</i> :—					
Whole carcasses	2	17	—	—	4
Organs or parts	34	98	—	—	—
<i>Other diseases</i> :—					
Whole carcasses	1	2	1	12	2
Organs or parts	24	59	—	43	6

Miscellaneous :—

79 lbs. bacon	1127 lbs. beef	18 lbs. mutton
24 lbs. veal	73 lbs. pork	50 tins foodstuffs

Sec. F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	3	3	—
Scarlet Fever	6	3	—
Pneumonia	8	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	2	—
Whooping Cough ..	4	—	—
Measles	19	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—

The following cases were admitted to the County Isolation Hospital from the Area but had not been notified:

Cerebro-spinal Fever 2

Opthalmia Neonatorum 1

All three cases recovered.

The diagnosis in all three cases of Diphtheria was unconfirmed.

Disinfections for Scabies have been carried out in 13 cases.

AGE GROUPS.

[illegible]

11
TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
45 — 55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	1	—	3	1	1	—	—

All the fatal cases had been notified before death.

One of the notifications was an inward transfer.

At the end of the year there were 66 cases of Tuberculosis on the District Register, 26 respiratory and 40 non-respiratory.

It is interesting to note that, in spite of war conditions, the incidence of and mortality from Tuberculosis is well below the average. During the ten years ended 1938 there was an average of 12·3 cases notified annually and 3·7 deaths.

GOVERNMENT EVACAUCTION SCHEME.

The number of evacuated persons resident in the Area has varied as follows:

January	511	October	515
April	483	December	476
July	502		

The absence of large scale raids has caused many of the London evacuees to return home, most of those remaining having been rendered homeless. A large proportion of the present numbers were evacuated from districts other than London.

The number of children in the District has remained fairly constant during the year.

There are now 19 premises requisitioned for billeting purposes. These have been kept in good order and have been very favourably commented upon by a Ministry of Health Inspector.

Since the appointment of a local helper, each billet has been visited at least once a month. This has added greatly to the contentment of the evacuees.

The British Restaurant has flourished exceedingly and has proved a great asset, not only to evacuated persons resident in the Town but to various other classes of persons such as industrial workers. As many as 300 dinners have been served in one day, the fare being well cooked and agreeably served.

Much hard work has been done by the Organiser and her voluntary staff, to whom great credit is due.

The County Emergency Maternity Home near Downham Market has proved a most useful asset, Though there has been less demand recently for accommodation for evacuated mothers, there is a definite shortage of institutional accommodation for maternity cases generally, and several patients not officially evacuated have been admitted on payment of a fee to cover expenses.

NORMAN E. D. CARTLEDGE,

Medical Officer of Health.